

December 14, 2012

BY ELECTRONIC FILING

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: *Berkshire Telephone Corporation, Big Sandy Telecom, Inc., Bluestem Telephone Company, Chautauqua and Erie Telephone Corporation, Chouteau Telephone Company, Columbine Telecom Company, C-R Telephone Company, The El Paso Telephone Company, Ellensburg Telephone Company, FairPoint Communications Missouri, Inc., Fremont Telcom Co., The Germantown Independent Telephone Company, GTC, Inc., Marianna and Scenery Hill Telephone Company, Odin Telephone Exchange, Inc., The Orwell Telephone Company, Peoples Mutual Telephone Company, Sunflower Telephone Company, Inc., Taconic Telephone Corp., YCOM Networks, Inc.,* Petition for Conversion to Price Cap Regulation and for Limited Waiver Relief, WC Docket No. 12-71

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On March 5, 2012, Berkshire Telephone Corporation, Big Sandy Telecom, Inc., Bluestem Telephone Company, Chautauqua and Erie Telephone Corporation, Chouteau Telephone Company, Columbine Telecom Company, C-R Telephone Company, The El Paso Telephone Company, Ellensburg Telephone Company, FairPoint Communications Missouri, Inc., Fremont Telcom Co., The Germantown Independent Telephone Company, GTC, Inc., Marianna and Scenery Hill Telephone Company, Odin Telephone Exchange, Inc., The Orwell Telephone Company, Peoples Mutual Telephone Company, Sunflower Telephone Company, Inc., Taconic Telephone Corp., YCOM Networks, Inc. (collectively, the “FairPoint Petitioning LECs”) filed a petition seeking approval to convert their special access services from rate-of-return regulation to price cap regulation and for limited waiver relief.¹ The Commission issued a

¹ See *Berkshire Telephone Corporation, Big Sandy Telecom, Inc., Bluestem Telephone Company, Chautauqua and Erie Telephone Corporation, Chouteau Telephone Company, Columbine Telecom Company, C-R Telephone Company, The El Paso Telephone Company, Ellensburg Telephone Company, FairPoint Communications Missouri, Inc., Fremont Telcom*

Public Notice seeking comment on the Petition,² and this Petition remains before the Commission pending action.

Separately, FairPoint Communications, Inc. (“FairPoint”) has filed a domestic 214 application,³ along with related wireless and international applications,⁴ to transfer control of its wholly owned subsidiary, Fremont Telcom Co. (“Fremont”), from an intermediate subsidiary, MJD Ventures, Inc. (“MJD”), to Blackfoot Telephone Cooperative, Inc. d/b/a Blackfoot Telecommunications Group (“Blackfoot”) and its wholly-owned subsidiary, BTC Holdings, Inc. (“BTC”). As a result of this Application to transfer control of Fremont from FairPoint/MJD to Blackfoot/BTC, FairPoint seeks to conditionally withdraw Fremont as a petitioning local exchange carrier from the FairPoint Petitioning LECs’ Petition, subject to the Commission’s grant of the Application and the consummation of the transaction associated with the transfer of control by FairPoint and Blackfoot. FairPoint and Blackfoot have requested expedited processing of the Application to enable the companies to close on the proposed transfer of control by the end of January 2013, in order to deliver the expected public interest benefits early in 2013 of that transaction.

Co., The Germantown Independent Telephone Company, GTC, Inc., Marianna and Scenery Hill Telephone Company, Odin Telephone Exchange, Inc., The Orwell Telephone Company, Peoples Mutual Telephone Company, Sunflower Telephone Company, Inc., Taconic Telephone Corp., YCOM Networks, Inc., Petition for Conversion to Price Cap Regulation and for Limited Waiver Relief, WC Docket No. 12-71 (filed March 5, 2012) (“Petition”).

² *Wireline Competition Bureau Seeks Comment on the Petition of the FairPoint Cost Companies for Conversion of Their Special Access Services to Price Cap Regulation and for Limited Waiver Relief*, Public Notice, WC Docket No. 12-71, DA 12-525 (rel. April 2, 2012) (“Public Notice”).

³ *See Application for Transfer of Control Pursuant to Section 214(a) of the Communications Act for Transfer of Control of Fremont Telecom Co. and Fretel Communications, LLC from FairPoint Communications, Inc. to Blackfoot Telephone Cooperative, Inc. d/b/a Blackfoot Telecommunications Group*, WC Docket No. 12-351 (filed Dec. 6, 2012) (“Application”).

⁴ *See* Form 603 Transfer of Control of Fremont Telcom Co. from MJD Ventures, Inc., Transferor, to BTC Holdings, Inc., Transferee, File No. 0005530107 (filed Dec. 10, 2012) (proposing to transfer control of Fremont and its wireless microwave point-to-point licenses). *See also* International 214 Application for Transfer of Control of Fretel Communications, LLC from MJD Ventures, Inc., Transferor, to BTC Holdings, Inc., Transferee, Submission ID: IB2012002830 (filed Dec. 10, 2012) (proposing to transfer control of Fretel Communications, LLC and its international 214 authorization). Fretel Communications, LLC (“Fretel”) is a wholly-owned subsidiary of MJD Ventures, Inc., which in turn is a wholly-owned subsidiary of FairPoint Communications, Inc. Fretel is a competitive local exchange carrier (“CLEC”) and interexchange carrier. As a CLEC, Fretel was not included in the Petition along with the FairPoint Petitioning LECs to convert to price cap regulation.

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The FairPoint Petitioning LECs also request Commission action on their Petition to convert to price cap regulation before March 1, 2013 in order to take all necessary steps to implement the conversion on or before July 1, 2013.

Please contact me should any questions arise concerning this filing.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/

Karen Brinkmann

Counsel for the FairPoint Petitioning LECs

cc: Victoria Goldberg, Wireline Competition Bureau